DC

1
OF 6

BATMAN II

IDW

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

TYNION IV
WILLIAMS II
COLWELL

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FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II. Colwell

52

"Go on. Tell me what you really see."

DR. MALCOLM LONG

A TWELVE ISSUE DELUXE SERIES

GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK
BRAD ANDERSON

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DC

1
OF 6

BATMAN II

IDW

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

THE GRAND GOTHAM HOTEL

TYNION IV
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COLWELL

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:HUFF-HUFF:

I NEED THE POLICE!

9-1-1, WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY?

THE LIGHTS...THE LIGHTS WENT OUT...

I WAS IN THE SUBWAY, AND THE LIGHTS CUT OUT, AND I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING...

SUBWAY

SIR, IF THIS IS A MAINTENANCE ISSUE...

NO, DAMMIT. I'M TRYING TO EXPLAIN. TRYING TO TELL YOU WHAT I SAW... IT WAS LIKE... SOME KIND OF ***DEMON.***

IT WAS DRAPED IN SHADOW, AND ITS VOICE...OH GOD, ITS VOICE...IT DIDN'T SOUND ***HUMAN.***

IT TOLD ME TO ***RUN.*** IT TOLD ME THAT IT WAS ***SAVING*** ME... AND THEN...AND THEN...

IT SAID SOMETHING THAT SENT A CHILL RIGHT DOWN MY SPINE. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...

I CAN STILL HEAR WHAT IT SAID TO ME, RINGING OUT...

WHAT DID IT SAY?

COWABUNGA!!!

New York City.
The Subway Tunnels.
Thirty Seconds Earlier...

A KNIGHT IN NEW YORK

SCRIPT: JAMES TYNION IV ART: FREDDIE WILLIAMS II
COLORS: JEREMY COLWELL LETTERS: TOM NAPOLITANO
COVER: WILLIAMS II AND COLWELL VARIANT COVER: KEVIN EASTMAN AND VARGA TOMI
ASSISTANT EDITOR: LIZ ERICKSON EDITOR: JIM CHADWICK
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES CREATED BY KEVIN EASTMAN AND PETER LAIRD

MIKEY, IS THIS *REALLY* THE BEST TIME FOR A SNACK?

YOU KNOW WHAT THE ANCIENT PROVERB SAYS ABOUT PIZZA ON A BAGEL...

THAT'S FROM A FREAKING *COMMERCIAL!*

UH, GUYS... REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT *FOCUSING* WHEN RIDING HIGHLY DANGEROUS EXPERIMENTAL MACHINERY AT EIGHTY MILES PER HOUR?

YOU ARE NOT *FIT* TO LEAD US, KARAI. THE *FOOT CLAN* BELONGS TO THE *ELITE GUARD* NOW.

SURRENDER AND PROCLAIM US THE RIGHTFUL SUCCESSOR TO SHREDDER'S RULE AND WE WILL ALLOW YOU TO *LIVE.*

SHREDDER WOULD *NEVER* ALLOW ANYONE WHO CHALLENGED HIS AUTHORITY TO LIVE.

AND NEITHER WILL *HIS DAUGHTER.*

WHUMP

POINT TAKEN.

THUNK

HEY, KARAI! NEED A LIFT?

MICHELANGELO?!

I HAVE SINGLE-HANDEDLY TAKEN DOWN MORE ELITE GUARDSMEN THAN ANY LIVING MARTIAL ARTIST. I DO NOT NEED THE HELP OF MUTANT *CHILDREN.*

WHOA, HARSH. I THOUGHT WE WERE PALS.

WELL, MAYBE NOT *PALS,* BUT I THOUGHT, LIKE, WE WERE DONE TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER. WE JUST WANTED TO *HELP.*

YOU TURTLES **STARTED** THIS MESS. WHEN YOU RETURNED FROM THAT OTHER DIMENSION, AND THREW SHREDDER IN PRISON, WHAT DID YOU **THINK** WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?

HEY LOSERS...

...I THINK THIS IS **YOUR** STOP.

UH, LEO... I THINK ONE OF THOSE DUDES WE KICKED OUT OF THE CAR WAS THEIR LEADER. THE ONE IN THE FREAKY MASK...DO YOU THINK--

DONNIE'S SMARTER THAN THE REST OF US PUT TOGETHER...

"I'M SURE HE'S GOT SOMETHING UP HIS SLEEVE..."

Y'KNOW, YOU GUYS SHOULD WATCH WHERE YOU STEP DOWN HERE.

THE THIRD RAIL CAN BE DEADLY.

AND I ONLY NEED A *FRACTION* OF ITS POWER TO CHARGE THIS TASER RIFLE I DESIGNED LAST NIGHT. ONE HIT, AND YOU'LL BE OUT FOR *HOURS.*

WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST?

FOOLISH CHILD.

YOU FACE *NINJA ELITE.*

PCHOOOW

OH, THAT'S NOT GOOD.

THAT'S NOT GOOD AT *ALL.*

THUNK

UNNF

HEY, DUDES. I KINDA SORTA *LOST* KARAI BACK THERE.

AND SHE WAS SUPER MEAN.

HAVE YOU SEEN DONNIE?

I THINK I CAN HEAR SOMETHING DOWN THE TUNNEL...IT SOUNDS LIKE *FIGHTING...*

WE NEED TO MOVE *FAST.*

YOU ARE NOT A TRUE *NINJA.*

YOU MASK YOUR DEFICIENCIES WITH CHEAP TRICKS. THAT IS THE WAY OF THE *WEAK.*

YOU CANNOT BEST TRUE *STRENGTH* AND *SKILL!*

I'M JUST *SMART* ENOUGH TO USE EVERY TOOL AT MY DISPOSAL.

WE HAVE TOOLS OF OUR OWN.

TOOLS THAT OUR FOREBEARERS HAVE MASTERED OVER CENTURIES. ELEVATING THE SKILL OF THEIR USE INTO AN ART FORM.

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THE GREAT HAMATO YOSHI MUST THINK OF YOU.

HE WOULD NEVER *TRULY* ENCOURAGE YOUR FOOLISH TOYS UNLESS HE SAW YOU FOR WHAT YOU *ARE...*

PERHAPS THIS IS A MERCY.

GET AWAY FROM HIM!

DON'T YOU SEE, BOY? I AM FREEING YOU.

IMAGINE HOW STRONG YOU WOULD BE IF YOU NEVER HAD TO PROTECT THE RUNT OF YOUR LITTER.

I'M PLENTY STRONG ENOUGH ALREADY.

JUST BECAUSE DONNIE'S NOT AS GOOD A FIGHTER AS THE REST OF US, DOESN'T MEAN HE'S NOT A MILLION TIMES BETTER THAN SCUM LIKE YOU.

AW, DUDE. WE TOTALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER FOR A SECOND THERE. THANK THE PIZZA GODS RAPH AND LEO GOT DOWN HERE IN TIME.

Y-YEAH.

THANK THE PIZZA GODS.

ACCESS GRANTED.

WE HAVE JUST CONFIRMED THE *WORST.*

THEY *KNOW* OF THE PIT YOU HAVE HIDDEN AWAY UNDER THE CITY. THE BREAKOUT WAS JUST THE FIRST STEP IN THEIR PLAN.

THEY WISH TO MAKE *HIM* OUR NEW LEADER.

MASTER! DID YOU HEAR ME?! THEY ARE MOVING ***NOW!***

MASTER. HM.

I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

Y-YOU'RE NOT--

Gotham City

Now

FORTY-SEVEN MINUTES AGO THERE WAS A *MASSIVE* BREAKOUT AT ARKHAM ASYLUM.

IT WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE A RIOT, STARTED BY INMATES. BUT I FOUND TRACE SMOKE POWDER USED BY THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS. I *KNOW* RA'S AL GHUL IS INVOLVED.

AND NOW YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A PIT UNDER THE CITY...*TELL ME EVERYTHING.*

THERE...THERE IS A LAZARUS PIT, HIDDEN DEEP UNDER GOTHAM. OUR MASTER HAS KEPT IT HIDDEN FOR YEARS.

WHY WOULD THE LEAGUE WANT SOMEONE NEW TO USE IT?

THEY WANT SOMEONE WORTHY OF THIS POWER. WHO CAN TAKE IT IN AND TEACH THEM THE TRUE MEANING OF ***STRENGTH.***

A FACTION OF THE LEAGUE BELIEVES RA'S AL GHUL PROVED HIMSELF TOO WEAK TO LEAD THEM AFTER HE PARTNERED WITH THE BLADED MAN FROM ANOTHER WORLD, AND LOST.

ROBIN...

I'M ALREADY CHECKING ***HIS*** CELL...

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN RIPPED OPEN FROM THE INSIDE.

FATHER, THIS IS GOING TO GET VERY BAD, ISN'T IT?

HH.

WE NEED TO MOVE. FAST.

Meanwhile, a world away...

CASEY, ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

I'VE BEEN STITCHING UP MY DAD AFTER BAR FIGHTS SINCE I WAS SIX YEARS OLD, APRIL. I KNOW MY WAY AROUND SOME STITCHES.

SO THAT'S WHERE YOUR DAD GOT THOSE FRANKENSTEIN SCARS.

YEAH, WELL, SCARS BUILD CHARACTER. WE'LL GET YOU GOOD AND GRIZZLED UP, DONNIE. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

FINE.

I'M GUESSING IT DIDN'T GO WELL?

FROM WHAT WE UNDERSTOOD, TONIGHT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A ***MEDIATION*** BETWEEN KARAI'S WING OF THE FOOT CLAN AND THE ELITE GUARD.

LOOKS LIKE THAT BROKE DOWN BEFORE WE EVEN GOT ***CLOSE***.

IT'S LIKE I ALWAYS SAY: TWO WARRING SIDES WILL NEVER COME TOGETHER WITHOUT THE HEALING POWER OF ***PIZZA***.

THEY NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE HARMONY BETWEEN MEATS AND CHEESE, AND OCCASIONALLY EVEN ***PINEAPPLE***...

THAT'S THE ONLY ***REAL*** PATH TO PEACE.

AND I'M GETTING WIND THAT BEBOP AND ROCKSTEADY HAVE JUST BROKEN OFF INTO A THIRD FACTION. APPARENTLY THEY HIT THE PURPLE DRAGONS ***HARD*** LAST NIGHT.

WORSE THAN THAT, I'M HEARING ***EACH*** OF THE FACTIONS WANT ALL OF YOUR HEADS ON PIKES.

OKAY THEN, LET'S SET SOME GROUND RULES. NOBODY LEAVES THE SEWERS ALONE UNTIL ALL OF THIS DIES DOWN.

HEY! CASEY AND I WERE GONNA SNEAK INTO THE RANGERS GAME TOMORROW!

WELL, EITHER YOU ALL GO, OR NOBODY DOES.

STUPID FOOT CLAN.

I DON'T REMEMBER THE STREETS ***EVER*** FEELING THIS DANGEROUS BEFORE.

WELL, ALL STITCHED UP AND READY TO TACKLE A FEW MORE ELITE GUARDS, RIGHT, DONNIE?

YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE WRONG TURTLE. THEY TOOK THE GUARDS DOWN.

I'M JUST THE ONE WHO GOT HIS ***SHELL*** HANDED TO HIM.

MASTER SPLINTER?

COME, MY SON. WHAT TROUBLES YOU?

I...I FAILED TONIGHT. I FAILED MY BROTHERS, I FAILED MY CITY AND I FAILED *YOU*...THEY COULD HAVE *DIED* BECAUSE I WASN'T *STRONG* ENOUGH TO FIGHT THEM MYSELF.

STRONG ENOUGH? WHAT IS STRONG ENOUGH? DID YOU NOT BUILD THE MACHINES THAT BROUGHT ALL FOUR OF YOU THERE IN TIME TO SAVE A LIFE?

THAT'S *DIFFERENT*, AND YOU *KNOW IT.*

I KNOW I'M SMART. I'M GLAD I'M SMART...BUT ALL OF MY BROTHERS ARE BETTER FIGHTERS THAN ME. IN A SHOW OF STRENGTH, I'M ALWAYS GOING TO COME OUT ON THE BOTTOM.

EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN UNIQUE ABILITIES, AND IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO TEND TO THOSE ABILITIES SO THAT THEY MAY GROW.

STRENGTH IS NOT JUST A PHYSICAL FORCE. IT COMES IN MANY SHAPES, AND IT CAN BE MASTERED IN MANY WAYS.

NO ONE MAN CAN MASTER ALL THINGS IN ONE LIFETIME.

BUT...THAT'S NOT TRUE... A FEW MONTHS AGO WE MET *BATMAN.* HE WAS A GENIUS *AND* I THINK HE COULD EVEN HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST *YOU,* FATHER.

WELL, NO...

I JUST WISH I COULD *TALK* TO HIM AGAIN...ASK HIM *HOW* HE DID IT...I--

DONATELLO?

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO ME, FATHER...I THINK... I THINK I JUST NEEDED TO GET ALL THAT OFF MY MIND. I'LL BE OKAY, REALLY.

I'M JUST GOING TO TAKE A WALK. CLEAR MY HEAD A BIT. I'LL BE OKAY.

HMM.

One mile beneath Gotham City

DAMN HIM. ALL THE TIMES WE'VE FACED EACH OTHER, ALL THE LAZARUS PITS I'VE DESTROYED...

AND HE'S KEPT ONE HIDDEN *RIGHT* UNDER MY NOSE.

I HEAR MOVEMENT AHEAD.

SO DO I...

ROBIN, STOP. SOMETHING'S WRONG.

NIGHTVISION. ACTIVATE.

SKREEE!

New York City

BEEEP

ACCESS GRANTED.

SWISH

UH, HAROLD? YOU STILL UP?

IT'S DONATELLO. I NEED TO BORROW SOMETHING...

OKAY, THEN. I GUESS IT'S JUST ME AND AN EXPERIMENTAL MULTIVERSAL TELEPORTATION SYSTEM.

:SIGH: DONNIE, THIS IS CRAZY. YOU KNOW THIS IS CRAZY, RIGHT?

YOU'RE EVEN ***TALKING*** TO YOURSELF.

YEAH. BUT IF YOU DON'T DO THIS YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SLEEP FOR DAYS.

SO...HOW DO I USE ALIEN TECHNOLOGY TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE ONE PERSON WHO'S GOING TO CLEAR MY MIND?

HMM... OKAY. I JUST NEED TO TARGET HIS GENETIC SIGNATURE.

Under Gotham.

UNNF

ROBIN!

BONK

KERPLUNK

-TT-

MY GRANDFATHER WILL BE *HEARING* ABOUT THIS.

THE LAZARUS PIT!

...FATHER... I THINK YOU NEED TO GET DOWN HERE.

HA HAHA HAHAHA HAHA!

YES! I DID IT! THIS IS GOING TO WORK!

OH CRUD.

NO! GET BACK!

THIS MACHINE IS DANGEROUS!

THE NINJA MAN-BATS...THEY BEGAN TO FLEE WHEN THEY HEARD IT...

WE'RE TOO LATE, FATHER. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT LAUGHTER MEANS... THE LAZARUS PIT, IT DRIVES MEN MAD WITH RAGE AND POWER.

BANE.

THEY SAY THE *DEMON* OFFERED YOU THIS POWER BEFORE...AND YOU REJECTED IT.

WHAT I FEEL NOW IS NOT MADNESS. *THAT* IS MADNESS.

IT'S ALL SO CLEAR NOW...

MY ENTIRE LIFE, I HAVE LIVED IN THE PRISON OF MY BODY. THE PRISON OF MY MIND. AND IT MADE ME ***STRONG***, BATMAN. STRONGER THAN ANY MAN WHO HAS EVER LIVED...

BUT MEN LIKE YOU AND RA'S AL GHUL, YOU HAVE ***KEPT*** ME FROM MY TRUE POTENTIAL. YOU KEPT ME LOCKED AWAY FROM THIS ***TRUE*** POWER. THIS ***PURE*** STRENGTH. ***LIFE*** EVERLASTING.

NOW THAT I HAVE TASTED IT, DO YOU THINK I WILL ***EVER*** ALLOW YOU TO LOCK ME AWAY AGAIN?

YOU NEED TO--

OH NO... IT'S GOT ME...

LOOK. OKAY, I GET IT. YOU CHOP OFF MY HEAD AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE PRETTY POPULAR WITH THE OTHER FOOT CLAN GUYS.

BUT YOU'RE MESSING WITH TECH YOU CAN'T ***HOPE*** TO UNDERSTAND! IF YOU GET CAUGHT IN THE ENERGY FIELD IT COULD SHOOT YOU ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE.

STAND ***BACK!***

FATHER! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?

DONATELLO?!

BATMAN? IS THAT REALLY ***YOU?!***

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

I WAS TRYING TO SEND A MESSAGE...

...BUT I WAS ATTACKED, AND THE MACHINE SHORT-CIRCUITED.

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND... WHERE *AM I?* WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

IT'S LUCKY YOU WEREN'T STANDING ANY CLOSER...

...OTHERWISE, WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE *SWAPPED* PLACES.

SORRY, WERE YOU GUYS IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING?

YOU ARE IN THE DOMAIN OF THE *TRUE FOOT CLAN,* AND YOU WILL *NOT* ESCAPE, WHOEVER YOU MIGHT BE.

A PRISON, THEN. VERY WELL.

LET'S BEGIN.

To Be Continued...

Men
of two worlds
must confront
each other...
to find the hope
behind the
madness!

BATMAN
SUPERFRIENDS

DC UNIVERSE

WRITTEN BY TOM KING
ART BY CLAY MANN

BEGINNING WITH #36
DECEMBER

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A DC ALL ACCESS interview with artist JOHN ROMITA JR.

DC ALL ACCESS: What makes this character different from more traditional characters in the DC Universe?

JOHN ROMITA JR.: She is less of a superheroine and more of a superspy. I really enjoy something that's realistic and you add fantastic to it, as opposed to most superheroes, which is the reverse. It's a great brand-new African American female character. She's not doing the standard "this is my last operation and I want to go out on a high note" kind of thing.

DCAA: What aspect of your personality did you inject into this character?

JRJ: I'm adding personal touches. For instance, her house is the house I grew up in. Instead of getting reference on the inside of a home, I just started using my parents' house from memory. Now I feel like the character is a part of me.

DCAA: Why is working on this project exciting?

JRJ: The obvious answer is it's a new character and it's a woman of color. For a guy who hasn't drawn an African American or a female regularly, it's an exciting challenge because you have to get used to the way a character looks. That is actually the most fun of working in the business, is doing something you haven't done before.

DCAA: Was it more fun creating this new character versus working on the iconic DC characters?

JRJ: That's not fair because I hadn't been to DC for most of my career, then when I came over, I was doing Batman and Superman. Yet, doing a brand-new character who will be in the DC Universe is just short of that. Dan Abnett has done a fantastic job on it. If you buy the premise, you're going to love the book.

DCAA: Why should a reader pick up this book (in 12 words or fewer)?

JRJ: It's a brand-new badass female character. She rocks!

DCAA: What was the collaboration process like with writer Dan Abnett?

JRJ: In February, we had a getaway with a bunch of writers and artists. We all went up to a hotel and tried to come up with new characters and new ideas. Dan Abnett said "I have a whole list of cool names." When I heard "the Silencer," I said that I thought that was the coolest name out of the bunch. He remembered that and it kind of developed between Dan, myself and the editors.

SPECIAL VERTICAL DOUBLE-GATEFOLD COVER

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JANUARY 31

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